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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
INTER-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

HELD AT THE CITY OF QUEBEC

*From the 20th to the 23th October 1887 inclusively.*

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*From the 20th to the 23th October 1887 inclusively.*

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The Inter-Provincial Conference convened by the Hon. Mr. Mercier, Premier of Quebec, met on Thursday the 20th day of October 1887, at 11 o'clock A. M.

The following are the circulars sent by the Honorable Mr Mercier calling the Conference.

CIRCULARS.

Quebec, 24th September, 1887.

To the Right Honorable

Sir John A. Macdonald, P. C., G. C. B.,

&c.,      &c.,      &c.

Ottawa.

Sir,

The proposed Conference of the Provincial Governments for the purpose of considering questions which have arisen or may arise as to the autonomy of the

Provinces, their financial arrangements, and other matters of common Provincial interest, is to be held in the Parliament Buildings, Quebec, on Thursday the 20th October at 11 o'clock A. M. Your Government is earnestly invited to be represented at the Conference by yourself and one or more of your Colleagues.

Your obedient servant,

HONORÉ MERCIER.

Quebec, 24th September, 1887.

To

Hon. O. Mowat,

Premier of Ontario, Toronto.

Dear Sir,

Having reference to the verbal communications which have taken place with respect to a Conference of the Provincial Governments of the Dominion for the purpose of considering questions which have arisen or may arise as to the autonomy of the Provinces, their financial arrangements, and other matters of common Provincial interest:—I beg respectfully to invite your Government to such Conference accordingly; the same to be held in the Parliament Buildings, Quebec, on Thursday the 20th October at 11 o'clock A. M. No limit is suggested as to the number of gentlemen to represent each Province at the Conference.

Yours truly,

HONORÉ MERCIER.

Quebec, 24th September, 1887.

To Hon. W. S. Fielding,

Premier of Nova Scotia, Halifax,

Dear Sir,

Having reference to the verbal communications which have taken place with respect to a Conference of the Provincial Governments of the Dominion for the purpose of considering questions which have arisen or may arise as to the autonomy of the Provinces; their financial arrangements, and other matters of common Provincial interest:—I beg respectfully to invite your Government to such Conference accordingly; the same to be held in the Parliament Buildings, Quebec, on Thursday the 20th October at 11 o'clock A. M. No limit is suggested as to the number of gentlemen to represent each Province at the Conference.

Yours truly,

HONORÉ MERCIER.

Quebec, 24th, September, 1887.

To Hon. A. G. Blair,

Premier of New-Brunswick

Fredericton

Dear Sir,

Having reference to the verbal communications which have taken place with respect to a Conference of the Provincial Governments of the Dominion for the purpose of considering questions which have arisen or may arise as to the autonomy of the Provinces, their financial arrangements, and other matters of common Provincial interest:—I beg respectfully to invite your Government to such Conference accordingly; the same to be held in the Parliament Buildings, Quebec, on Thursday the 20th October at 11 o'clock A. M. No limit is suggested as to the number of gentlemen to represent each Province at the Conference.

Yours truly,

HONORÉ MERCIER.



Quebec, 24th September, 1887.

To Hon. John Norquay,  
Premier of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

Dear Sir,

You are aware that it has been proposed to hold a Conference of the Provincial Governments of the Dominion for the purpose of considering questions which have arisen or which may arise as to the autonomy of the Provinces, their financial arrangements, and other matters of common Provincial interest. The Governments of several of the Provinces have already expressed their concurrence in the proposal, and it is hoped that all the Provinces will be represented. I beg to express my earnest desire that yourself and some of your colleagues may attend and take part in the deliberations which are contemplated. Thursday the 20th October has been suggested as, on the whole, the most convenient time, and Quebec as the place of meeting. The Conference is therefore to take place at the Parliament Buildings in Quebec at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of the day named. No limit is suggested as to the number of gentlemen to represent each Province at the Conference.

Yours truly,

HONORÉ MERCIER.

Quebec, 24th September, 1887.

To Hon. Wm. W. Sullivan  
Premier of Prince Edward Island,  
Charlottetown.

Dear Sir,

You are aware that it has been proposed to hold a Conference of the Provincial Governments of the Dominion for the purpose of considering questions which have arisen or which may arise as to the autonomy of the Provinces, their financial arrangements, and other matters of common Provincial interest. The Governments of several of the Provinces have already expressed their concurrence in the proposal, and it is hoped that all the Provinces will be represented. I beg to express my earnest desire that yourself and some of your colleagues may attend and take part

in the deliberations which are contemplated. Thursday the 20th October has been suggested as on the whole the most convenient time, and Quebec as the place of meeting. The Conference is therefore to take place at the Parliament Buildings in Quebec at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of the day named. No limit is suggested as to the number of gentlemen to represent each Province at the Conference.

Yours truly,

HONORÉ MERCIER,

Quebec, 24th September, 1887.

To Hon. A. C. B. Davie,

Premier of British Columbia, Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir,

You are aware that it has been proposed to hold a Conference of the Provincial Governments of the Dominion for the purpose of considering questions which have arisen or which may arise as to the autonomy of the Provinces, their financial arrangements, and other matters of common Provincial interest. The Governments of several of the Provinces have already expressed their concurrence in the proposal, and it is hoped that all the Provinces will be represented. I beg to express my earnest desire that yourself and some of your colleagues may attend and take part in the deliberations which are contemplated. Thursday, the 20th October, has been suggested as, on the whole, the most convenient time, and Quebec as the place of meeting. The Conference is therefore to take place at the Parliament Buildings in Quebec at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of the day named. No limit is suggested as to the number of gentlemen to represent each Province at the Conference.

Yours truly,

HONORÉ MERCIER.

In answer to the foregoing circulars the following gentlemen were present on the 20th October 1887, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, at Quebec, in the Parliament Buildings, viz :

### ONTARIO.

Honorable Oliver Mowat, Prime Minister of Ontario, and Attorney-General.  
 Honorable G. W. Ross, Minister of Education.  
 Honorable A. M. Ross, Minister of Agriculture and Treasurer.  
 Honorable C. F. Fraser, Commissioner of Public Works.  
 Honorable A. S. Hardy, Provincial Registrar.

### QUEBEC.

Honorable H. Mercier, Prime Minister of Quebec, and Attorney-General.  
 Honorable D. A. Ross, Executive Councillor of Quebec.  
 Honorable A. Turcotte, Acting Commissioner of Crown Lands.  
 Honorable Joseph Shehyn, Treasurer of the Province.  
 Honorable C. A. E. Gagnon, Provincial Secretary and Registrar.  
 Honorable James McShane, Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works.  
 Honorable George Duhamel, Solicitor-General.  
 Honorable F. J. Marchand, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

### NOVA SCOTIA.

Honorable W. S. Fielding, Prime Minister of Nova Scotia.  
 Honorable J. W. Longley, Attorney-General.  
 Honorable A. MacGillivray, Executive Councillor of Nova Scotia.

### NEW BRUNSWICK.

Honorable Andrew G. Blair, Prime Minister of New Brunswick, and Attorney-General.  
 Honorable D. McLellan, Provincial Secretary.

### MANITOBA.

Honorable John Norquay, Prime Minister and Treasurer.  
 Honorable C. E. Hamilton, Attorney-General.

The following letters were read :

Ottawa, 4th October, 1887.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo, inviting the Dominion Government to be represented at a Provincial Conference.

In reply I beg to state that it appears to us that it would answer no good purpose to send representatives to this Conference.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

(Signed) JOHN A. MacDONALD.

The Honorable

Honoré Mercier,

&c., &c., &c.

Quebec.

Victoria, British Columbia,

October 19th, 1887.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your favor of the 24th September ult. inviting the representation of this Province at a Provincial Conference to be held at Quebec on the 20th instant and beg to thank you for the same.

There being no matters of difference between this Province and the Dominion other than those which can be settled through the usual methods, I cannot perceive any utility in our taking part in the Conference.

Again thanking you for your courtesy, I beg to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant

(Signed.) ALEX. E. B. DAVIE,

Premier B. C.

Hon. Honoré Mercier,

Premier of Quebec.

Charlottetown, October, 7th 1887.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th ultimo inviting the Government of Prince Edward Island to be represented at the Conference of Provincial Governments which it is proposed to hold in Quebec on the 20th instant.

The project has received due consideration; and I have now to acquaint you that the Government of this Province deem it inadvisable to be represented at the Conference.

I am,

Yours truly,

(Signed) W. W. SULLIVAN

The Honorable

Honoré Mercier,

Prime Minister of Quebec,

Quebec.



The Hon. Mr. Mercier then read the following document.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN,

On the 16th of March last, Sir Andrew Stuart, the Administrator of the Province, in opening the First Session of the 6th Parliament made use of the following words :

" My government intends inviting the government of the other provinces, and that of the Dominion, to examine a question of vital importance, namely, that of their financial and other relations with the Federal government.

" The obscurity, in some respects, of the British North America Act, 1867, and the interpretation given to some clauses of that Act under certain circumstances, have give rise to well founded fears for the maintenance of our local institutions, and necessitate an understanding between the Provincial and Federal governments, with a view to arrive at a state of things more satisfactory to all.

" The lapse of twenty years since Confederation, has shown the insufficiency of the financial arrangements made at the outset.

" Upon entering into Confederation, the province of Quebec, like the others, gave to the central power its portion of the Customs and Excise Revenues, which have more than doubled since. It has received, in return, only a yearly fixed and settled grant.

" While the provinces gave up, in this way, the surest and most important of their revenues, they remained burdened with heavy expenses for the support of their local institutions, which expenses must, of necessity, increase with the growth of the population and the development of the country.

" Under these circumstances, and for these reasons, my government believes the time has come for the provinces to consider the situation seriously, and to consult together upon the means to surmont the present difficulties, and prevent their recurrence."

It is for the purpose of carrying into effect this official declaration of the representative of Her Majesty in this Province that the Government of Quebec

has invited the Governments of the other Provinces of the Confederation to take part in this Conference.

Allow me, in the name of the Government, of the Legislature and of the people of the Province of Quebec, to bid you welcome to the ancient capital of the country.

The kind manner in which you have accepted the invitation tendered you shows conclusively that you appreciate all the importance of this interprovincial conference, the first which has been held since 1864, which was attended by distinguished statesmen from Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and whose resolutions served, in some respects, as the basis of the Union Act of 1867.

I am happy to observe that amongst the distinguished men who took part in the Conference of 1864, was the Hon. Mr. Mowat, the present Premier of the Province of Ontario, which he governs so successfully for fifteen years and who has so ably defended the cause of provincial autonomy.

You, as well as ourselves, feel that it is not out of place nor opposed to the general interests of Canada, still less of the Provinces, to convene, after a lapse of twenty years, representatives from the Governments of all the Provinces; for the purpose of examining certain questions, an amicable solution of which the experience of past years may have shown to be necessary.

The government which has taken the initiative in connection with this conference deems it its duty to declare at once that the conference must not be considered in the light of a hostile move against the Federal authorities, but that its sole object is to endeavour to solve, in the general interest of the whole of Canada, such difficulties as experience has shown to exist in the relations between the General and the Provincial Governments.

The Government of Quebec desires that our Federal institutions be maintained and in order that their maintenance and proper working may be secured, it asks you to adopt means to remove all possibility of conflict between the General Government and those of the Provinces.

In meeting to-day for the purpose of discussing the general interests of the Confederation and of the Provinces, and of ascertaining the defects and omis-

sions in the working of our Constitution, we must admit that we but imitate the example given by the most distinguished statesmen of confederated countries in which, at various periods of their history, it has been found necessary to do what we are doing. I can give you no more convincing proof that the feeling which prompted the idea of this conference was devoid of all hostility against the Federal Power, than by reminding you that, following to the letter the declaration made by the Head of the Executive of this Province, we have specially invited the Federal authorities to take part in our deliberations, in order to assist us with their experience and their good will. It is with sincere regret that I am compelled to inform you that those authorities have declined the friendly invitation we tendered them.

I may safely say that the results of this Conference will establish the sincerity of this declaration and that our labors, inspired by the most enlightened patriotism and guided by the experience of the distinguished men whom I see about me, will be beneficial to the general interests of Canada and specially further those of the Provinces which we respectively represent.

I notice with feelings of pleasure, Gentlemen, that you have not found it strange that this Conference should have been proposed by the most French of all the Provinces of the Confederation and that it should be convened at Quebec the very place where that of 1864 was held. The inhabitants of this province are grateful for this act of courtesy on your part.

Although the government of this province has suggested the idea of this<sup>s</sup> Conference, I may state — and I hasten at once to do so — that it has no intention of dictating the subjects which are to be discussed. It merely indicates the chief points which have attracted its attention and which might, perhaps, with others which you are invited to suggest, be the subject of your deliberations.

The following are some of the points which have more especially attracted the attention of the Government of this Province :

1. Definitive readjustment of the Federal subsidy, so that it may never hereafter be altered ;
2. Payment by the Federal Government of the cost of Administration of Justice in criminal matters and the maintenance of prisoners convicted for

infringement of Federal laws ; amendment of the Criminal Law so as to limit to six months the period of incarceration in provincial prisons ; all incarcerations for periods of over six months to be in the provincial penitentiaries.

3. Surrender to the Provincial authorities of the right to impose and regulate Excise Duties.

4. Re-transfer to the Provinces of the culling and measurement of timber.

5. Exclusive control of local authorities over provincial works and railways .

6. Restoring subsection 11 of section 29 of the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference of 1864 and the Resolutions of the Parliament of the Province of Canada adopted in 1865, with reference to public works (other than those therein mentioned) so as to enact, as it originally was, that such works lying within a province shall not fall under the control of the Federal Parliament " unless they be specially declared by the acts authorizing them to be for the general advantage," contrary to what was afterwards enacted by subsection 10 of section 92 of the Union Act ;

7. Election of Senators by the Provincial Legislatures.

8. Removal from the Federal Government of the power of disallowing Provincial laws.

9. Uniformity of laws and procedure respecting the recovery of commercial debts ;

10. Facilitating the prompt execution in other provinces of judgments and orders of the courts of any one province.

11. Final and absolute transfer to the Provinces of all public properties which have been given over to them, either by the Union Act or in any other manner, before or since 1st July 1867.

12. Final and definite settlement by statute of the Northern limits of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

13. Definite settlement of the question of precedence before Provincial Courts and of the right of appointing Queen's Counsel.

14. Concession to Provincial Governments and Legislature of the privilege of sending their official postal matter through the mails free of charge.

15. Transfer to the Provincial Governments of all fines, confiscations and penalties of any kind whatsoever, imposed by the civil or criminal courts in the exercise of the powers pertaining to their jurisdiction, except in cases connected with the Customs.

16. The establishment of an easier and more expeditious means of communication between the Federal and Provincial Governments.

17. Payment by the Federal Government of the expense of maintaining order on Indian Reserves.

18. Concession to the Provinces of the power of imposing export duties on the produce of their forests and mines.

19. The Local Legislatures to have exclusive right to legislate respecting sea-coast and inland fisheries, as granted to Local Legislatures, concurrently with the Federal Power, by subsection 8 of section 43 and subsection 17 of section 29 of the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference of 1864 and those adopted by the Parliament of Canada in 1865.

20. Subsection 12 of section 43 of the said Resolutions to be restored as it originally was, so as to strike out the words which were added by subsection 9 of section 92 of the Union Act, namely; "In order to the raising of a revenue for Provincial, Local or Municipal purposes;" and also to be extended so as to cover all kinds of trades and industries.

21. Restoration to the Lieutenant-Governors in council of the power to respite, to reprieve and pardon criminals and commute and remit sentences in whole or in part, as determined by section 44 of the aforesaid Resolutions.

22. Restraining the Federal Parliament from incorporating any of the companies mentioned in section 92 of the Union Act.

With your kind permission I will now give some of the reasons which, in my opinion, would, in the interest of the Provinces, justify the adoption of several of the above articles or proposed resolutions.



### 1. *Readjustment of the Federal subsidy, &c.*

In this connection I will merely cite what has been already said by the Treasurers of two Conservative Governments of this Province, the Honorable Messrs Würtele and Robertson.

In his Budget Speech delivered on the 16th February 1883, Mr. Würtele made the following remarks ;

I think the Provinces can, in all justice and according to the spirit of the covenant upon which Confederation is based, ask that their annual subsidy be increased.....

"To carry out the intention of the founders of the Confederation, it would consequently be necessary that the annual subsidy, instead of being limited according to the census of 1861, should be calculated for each decade upon the basis of the last census.....

"For all these reasons the Government is of opinion that the Legislature of Quebec should ask the annual subsidy be calculated for each decade, according to the new census, and that it should urge this upon the Federal Government."

"The Government will therefore ask the House to vote an humble address to His Excellency the Governor General, submitting our claim and praying him to lay it before Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada."

"The reason in favor of our pretensions are such that we ought to succeed in our request, and all the more so that the large surplus of the Dominion Government removes all reason for refusing it."

"I do not here ask for better terms for the Province of Quebec than for the other Provinces. The same reasons exist on their behalf, and that which I ask should be given to all and not to our Province alone."

The address of which Mr. Würtele speaks was voted by our Legislature and transmitted to the Governor General.

In the following year, in 1884, Hon. Mr. Würtele's successor repeated the same claims in his Budget Speech.

This is what was said by Hon. Mr. Robertson, the Treasurer of the Ross Government, on the 2nd May 1884.

You will observe, Mr. Speaker, and honorable members will also take notice, that we were not presenting any new claim against the Dominion. Three years ago a deputation from the Chapleau administration presented precisely the same claims, which were promised consideration by the then Ottawa Government and in almost every Budget Speech, which for several years I have had the honor of presenting to his House, I kept alluding to these demands and reiterated our determination to press them upon the Dominion Government until they were allowed, as only being justice to our province. These in brief may be alluded to as..... " 2. An additional per capita subsidy over the amount mentioned in the B. N. A. Act, 1867, consequent upon our increased population and increased expense connected with carrying on provincial affairs....."

" 4. That the Province of Quebec be relieved from the cost of the administration of criminal justice—that is the cost of the criminal law of the Dominion—a cost increasing while the Dominion revenues are alone benefited by the increased population in the consumption of dutiable goods..."

" As regards an additional per capita subsidy to Quebec, the granting of this would require granting an equal amount to the other provinces, and our demand of a subsidy of one dollar a head based upon the population of 1881, as established by the census of the year, instead of eighty cents per head, upon the population of 1861, would require a large outlay by the Dominion Government to equalize the amount asked by us payable to all the other provinces. On this point the Dominion Government thought proper to express no opinion, and the question was postponed for future discussion and consideration" .....

As you will observe, the three Conservative governments which preceded us have asked precisely for what we ask, which proves that in the Province of Quebec public opinion is unanimous on that point.

I think that in the Province of Ontario there was also a question of the decennial increase of the Federal subsidy based upon the census of each decade.

In his Budget speech of 1882 Hon. Mr Wood said that, at Confederation, it

was agreed that Ontario was to receive a subsidy of 80 cents per head of the population and that the Province of Quebec was to receive an equal subsidy. It is impossible to see on what principle this proportion was arrived at. It seemed as if the conclusion had been come to that to govern the people would cost the amount per head of the population over and above the ordinary revenues of each Province, and consequently the Federal Government would have to provide for the payment of that sum per head of the population according to each successive census."

However the settlement of the subsidy according to the number of the population, as established by each decennial census, is not an innovation, since it exists under the Confederation Act for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and for Manitoba, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island under the acts of the Federal Parliament authorizing the entry of these Provinces into the Confederation.

This principle of decennial increase has therefore been admitted by the Imperial Parliament and that of Canada; only, the increase is sanctioned to the extent of a population of 400,000 souls for the Maritime Provinces as well as Manitoba and British Columbia. This limitation must be removed, in order that this principle may receive the full application of which it is susceptible and place all the provinces on an equal footing without affecting the rights of some of the Provinces as they are at present.

In order to give this re-adjustment the permanent character which is essential to it, and in order that we may obtain all the results we expect from it, it seems to me necessary that we should stipulate that, in future, the Federal Parliament be restrained from changing anything in the Federal compact which may be made in this connection between the Federal authorities and the Governments of the various Provinces, and that every infringement of such compact be deemed equivalent to a violation of the constitution.

*2. Payment by the Federal Government of the cost of administration of Justice in Criminal matters, etc.*

This is also one of the claims which have, on several occasions, been advanced by the Government of the Province of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. Würtle in his Budget Speech of 1883 said :

" The subsidy was specially given to meet, amongst other expenditures, those for the administration of justice and the support of lunatic asylums ; and the figures I have just given establish that in calculating the subsidy upon the basis of the census for 1861, the end in view was not attained. In fact the expenditure in question increases almost in proportion to the population ; and to meet it the subsidy should increase in the same proportion. While the Local Government cannot, by any supervision, control this expenditure, the Federal Government by its legislation respecting crimes and criminals and the great public works it undertakes, contributes to increase it."

Hon. Mr. Robertson, in his Budget Speech of the 2nd May 1884, spoke in the same sense after having on many previous occasions expressed the same opinion.

" As to the cost of the administration of criminal justice, this question is in abeyance for the present, but it was promised serious consideration by the Dominion Government, and there will be opportunity hereafter of expressing our views upon it.

" It seems to me that, as a matter of justice to us, the Dominion ought to pay for the administration of its own criminal laws, or else make compensation to us for what we have expended for years past and are yearly expending upon this service."

These declarations clearly show that, on this point also, the opinion of the Province of Quebec is unanimous.

### 3. *Reconsideration of the right to impose and regulate Excise duties.*

The Constitution of 1867 was based upon a treatise published in 1858 by Dr. Taché, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture, at Ottawa.

In default of any other text book, this work may serve as a guide for interpreting the obscure or defective points in the Confederation Act.

I find in it the following : " Thus, we would in the first place leave in their " entirely to each of the Provinces within its respective limits — with the duty of " collecting the same and the right of determining the amount thereof—all the " revenue comprised under the heading of *Territorial Revenue*, viz : Excise, Taxes

"on Banks and miscellaneous revenues. All these revenues at present amount in the aggregate to the sum of \$1,639,000."

The Resolutions of the Quebec Conference and of the Parliament of Canada (subsection 4 of section 29) expressly place Excise within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. But, as this special article was left out from the Union Act, we may suppose that, in London, our delegates decided to return to Mr. Taché's plan and leave Excise to the Provinces. This reason might justify a reconsideration of the matter, all the more so that Excise is a tax which essentially affects local industries.

5. *Exclusive control of local authorities over provincial works and railways, and*

6. *Restoring subsection 11 of section 29 of the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference &c.*

The object of this is to replace the Federal Act in this respect as it was agreed upon between the Parliament of the late Province of Canada and decided at the conference of all the Provinces in 1864. This restoration to the original text would remove all the difficulties to which the Federal Railway Act of 1883 has given rise.

7. *Election of Senators by the Provincial Legislatures.*

It is generally admitted that the present Constitution of the Senate presents serious objections, and that the power granted to the Federal authorities to appoint to the Senate politicians belonging all to one party is a permanent source of danger of conflict between the two Houses of the Federal Parliament and the Executive.

Moreover, it is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution, as originally drawn up by the public men who first occupied themselves with this question.

Dr Taché, whom I have already quoted, declared himself in favor of the elective principle for both Houses and of appointments being made on the recommendation of the Local Governments.

This is what I find in his work :

"Limiting the application of the principle that Parliament is all powerful—which the federative system partially excludes—extending the elective principle



to both Houses (and later on when we are independent, to the Chief of the State) we believe that the Federal power of our provinces should be based upon the principles of British Constitutional Government as now established in our colonies.".....

"For more ample security we might limit the choice of officers of the Federal Government..... to the persons whose names would be given in its supplied to the Federal Executive by the various local governments.".....

8. *Removal from the Federal Government of the power of disallowing provincial laws.*

The exercise of the power of disallowing provincial laws presents the gravest objections which it is necessary to remove.

As regards the constitutionality of the laws, that falls naturally within the jurisdiction of the Courts.

On the other hand, it should no more be permitted to the Federal Government to disallow a provincial act, on the pretext that it affects Federal rights, than it is permitted to Provincial Governments to disallow Federal acts because they affect provincial interests.

What has taken place in some of the provinces clearly proves the correctness and truth of this remark.

9. *Uniformity of the laws and procedure respecting the collection of commercial debts and*

10. *Facilitating the prompt execution in other provinces of judgments and orders rendered in any one province.*

Since the repeal of the Insolvent Act, business men throughout the Dominion have been anxiously but unsuccessfully endeavoring to find a uniform system of recovering commercial debts throughout all the Provinces of the Confederation. A few days ago, the Council of the Montreal Board of Trade, one of the most important bodies of the Dominion, sent, in view of this Conference, a memorial to me and also to the Premiers of the other provinces, stating that it is the unanimous

desire of the Board that such an arrangement may be come to, as well make the laws respecting the distribution of Insolvent Estates uniform throughout the various Provinces of Canada and thus greatly facilitate the commerce of the country.

This step on the part of the Montreal Board of Trade would alone justify the convening of the Conference and clearly shows that we meet the views of business men by making this important question one of the subjects of our deliberations.

The same may be said, and perhaps with still greater reason, with respect to the execution of judgments or orders. It does not seem reasonable to require that the courts of one province should have to confirm a judgment rendered by the Courts of another province, for such judgment, being rendered in the name of the same Sovereign, should be executory in other provinces subject to the same constitution and the same sovereign authority.

Such a legal enactment, adopted by all the provincial legislatures respectively, would remove many obstacles, both as regards delay in collection and increased costs.

This legislation is also called for by the newspapers of the commercial cities of Great Britain, which complain with reason that the want of uniformity, which we propose to remove, renders the recovery of commercial debts difficult and expensive.

11. *Final and definite transfer to the province of all property ceded to them &c.*

It has lately been asserted, without reason I think, but still in a manner to give rise to some uneasiness, that certain properties ceded to the provincial governments were only ceded in trust and consequently could not be disposed of like ordinary property. It would be advisable to remove all doubts as to the absolute rights of the province in this matter.

12. *Final and definite settlement by statute of the Northern limits of Ontario and Quebec.*

Although this apparently interests directly only the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the principles of justice which should animate all the provinces

equally, should in our opinion, not leave them entirely indifferent to the settlement of a question which is of such vital importance to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The settlement of this question also particularly interests Manitoba. When once the frontier of Ontario is established by statute, in accordance with the decision of the Privy Council, the Government of Manitoba will perhaps deem it advisable to ask an extension of its territory towards the West as compensation for what it may have lost on the East. Moreover, to leave this question of boundaries undecided would be to expose the provinces interested to conflicts with the Federal Government, calculated to disturb the harmony and concord which we are interested in maintaining throughout the Dominion.

13. *Definite settlement of the question of precedence before the Provincial Courts and of the right of appointing Queen's Counsel.*

Notwithstanding that the power granting precedence before Provincial Courts and appointing Queen's Counsel was formally granted to the Lieutenant-Governors of certain provinces by local acts which have remained in force for fourteen or fifteen years, it has been questioned on certain occasions which are known to all and, quite recently, the Privy Council of Canada threatened to disallow the Act respecting the Bar of the Province passed by the Quebec Legislature in 1886, on the pretext that the act gives to the Bâtonnier-General of the Province a right of precedence before the Courts of the Province.

I may add that this was not carried out, owing to the representations which I made to the Minister of Justice; but it seems to me—and I am sure you will admit it also—that it is expedient to settle this question in a definite manner and to ascertain with whom rests the power of appointing Queen's Counsel, and incidentally, whether acts passed fourteen or fifteen years ago by Provincial Legislatures at the suggestion, I believe, of the Federal authorities, can even now be menaced with disallowance, if not in their intrinsic form at least in their execution.

14. *Concession to the Provincial Governments and Legislatures of the privilege of sending postal matter free of charge, etc.*

It seems strange that the Provincial Governments should be obliged to pay postage upon their official correspondence and for the distribution of their public documents which are necessary for the general administration of the affairs of the

provinces, and it seems reasonable that we should ask that the official correspondence and communications emanating from the local governments or provincial legislatures should be carried through the mails free of charge. This expenditure amounts to a considerable sum for each of the provinces and it is important that they be relieved from that expense.

15. *Transfer to the Provincial Governments of fines, confiscations and penalties, &c.*

This question is foreign to that of *Escheats* which has been definitely settled in favour of the Provinces by the Privy Council in England, but it relates to several points of considerable importance, specially to that of fines imposed by the Courts of each Province in the application of Federal laws, which fines have, for some years, been considered as belonging to the Federal Government in virtue of an erroneous interpretation of subsection 15 of section 92 and other provisions of the Union Act. If the general costs of the administration of justice in criminal matters are to be left to the provincial governments, which is very questionable, all revenues arising directly or indirectly from such administration should, we think, revert to the local governments.

17. *Establishment of an easier means of communication between the Federal and Local Government.*

The system of official communication upon matters of pure routine and ordinary business seems to us to be too complicated and should not be maintained. It should not be necessary in such cases for the Secretary of State to communicate with the Lieutenant-Governor by means of official despatches, a method which give rise to unnecessary complications and delays. This matter, which is but of minor importance, might be easily and satisfactorily settled in the interest of both the Federal and Local Governments.

19. *Concession to local legislatures of exclusive right to legislate respecting sea-coast and inland fisheries.*

The power of legislating on this matter and the question of the ownership of the fisheries not having been definitely determined by the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference or by those adopted by the Parliament of Canada in 1865—

inasmuch as subsection 17 of section 29 and subsection 8 of section 43 of such Resolutions give concurrent powers in this respect to the Local Legislatures and the Federal Parliament, it may perhaps appear advisable for us to ascertain why the Union Act has determined the question against the rights of the Provinces in a matter of such importance, and to ascertain also what compensation should be claimed by the latter in consequence of so manifest a violation of the Federal Compact.

21. *Restoration to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of the power to pardon, &c.*

The exercise of this power is of the greatest importance and, according to section 44 of the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference in 1864 and of those adopted by the Parliament of Canada in 1865, it was to rest exclusively with the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Without desiring to enter into the motives which may have induced the Imperial Parliament to deprive the Provincial authorities of such an extensive power, it is not out of place for us to discuss the advisability of accepting, at least without making representations, the consequence of so radical a change which is calculated to so greatly diminish the power and prestige of the Provincial authorities.

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Such are, gentlemen, some of the remarks which I deem it my duty to make at the opening of this Conference to justify our action in the matter. I submit these remarks with all the respect due to our sister provinces and to the distinguished representatives they have sent here. I may be permitted to add that the members of the Government of this Province, as well as the officers to the various departments place themselves at your disposal, so as to lighten your labours and render your stay in our ancient capital as pleasant as possible.

The Province of Quebec, which we have the honour to represent, trusts that to relations between the local governments will be as cordial in the future as they have been in the past, and that the deliberations of this Conference will have the effect of strengthening our institutions, of contributing to the material, moral and intellectual welfare of the Confederation, and of giving birth to a true Canadian spirit which, rising above all questions of race and creed will enable the country to fulfill the great destiny which is in store for it.



May Heaven grant that the result of our labors be the final consecration of the political liberties granted to us by the August Sovereign who has this year celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of Her accession to the throne. It would have been difficult to select a more fitting time for holding this Conference than the year in which the whole British Empire celebrates the Jubilee of the beloved Queen to whom we owe the political institutions which we enjoy, and which we all desire to maintain and render as perfect as possible, as clearly shewn by our presence at this Conference.

In conclusion, allow me to make a suggestion.

We have in our midst, as I have already observed, one of the veterans of Canadian politics, a man who, nearly a quarter of a century ago, was present at the interprovincial conference at which the basis of our present Constitution was laid — I mean the Honorable Mr. Mowat, Premier of the Province of Ontario, and I move that he preside over this Conference.

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The Hon. M. Mowat, Premier of Ontario, was, on motion of Hon. Mr. Mercier, seconded by Hon. Mr. Norquay, unanimously appointed Chairman, and Alfred Evanturel, Esq. M. P. P. for Prescott, Ontario, Honorary Secretary.

Mr. Gustave Grenier, Clerk of the Executive Council of the Province of Quebec acted as Recording Secretary of the Conference.

The Conference sat from day to day to the 28th October inclusively

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The Representatives from Nova Scotia present at this Conference desired the following minute to be entered upon the Record of the proceedings and the Conference agreed to the entry being made accordingly;

“In view of recent movements in the Province of Nova Scotia, the Representatives of that Province desire to place on record that they participate in the deliberations of this Conference upon the understanding that, while they join the Representatives of the sister Provinces in seeking reforms in matters which are of common interest, they do so without prejudice to the right of the Government, Legislature or people of Nova Scotia to take any course that may in future be by them deemed desirable with a view to the separation of the Province from the Dominion.”

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On the 28th October, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted :

## RESOLUTIONS

### *Respecting Amendments of the British North America Act.*

WHEREAS, in framing the British North America Act 1867, and defining therein the limits of the Legislative and Executive powers and functions of the Federal and Provincial Legislatures and Governments, the authors of the Constitution performed a work, new, complex and difficult, and it was to be anticipated that experience in the working of the new system would suggest many needed changes; that twenty years' practical working of the Act has developed much friction between the Federal and Provincial Governments and Legislatures, has disclosed grave omissions in the provisions of the Act, and has shewn (when the language of the Act came to be judicially interpreted) that in many respects what was the common understanding and intention had not been expressed, and that important provisions in the Act are obscure as to their true intent and meaning; and whereas the preservation of Provincial autonomy is essential to the future well-being of Canada; and if such autonomy is to be maintained, it has become apparent that the Constitutional Act must be revised and amended; therefore the representatives and delegates of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New-Brunswick and Manitoba, duly accredited by their respective Governments, and in Conference assembled, believing that they express the views and wishes of the people of Canada, agree upon the following Resolutions as the basis upon which the Act should be amended; subject to the approval of the several Provincial Legislatures.

1. That by the British North America Act exclusive authority is expressly given to the Provincial Legislatures in relation to subjects enumerated in the 92nd section of the Act; that a previous section of the Act reserves to the Federal Government the legal power of disallowing at will all Acts passed by a Provincial Legislature; that this power of disallowance may be exercised so as to give to the Federal Government arbitrary control over legislation of the Provinces within their own sphere; and that the Act should be amended by taking away this power of disallowing Provincial Statutes, leaving to the people of each Province, through their representatives in the Provincial Legislature, the free exercise of their exclusive right of legislation on the subjects assigned to them, subject only to disallowance by Her Majesty in Council as before Confederation; the power of

disallowance to be exercised in regard to the Provinces upon the same principles as the same is exercised in the case of Federal Acts.

2. That it is important to the just operation of our Federal system, as well that the Federal Parliament should not assume to exercise powers belonging exclusively to the Provincial Legislatures, as that a Provincial Legislature should not assume to exercise powers belonging exclusively to the Federal Parliament; that to prevent any such assumption, there should be equal facilities to the Federal and Provincial Governments for promptly obtaining a judicial determination respecting the validity of Statutes of both the Federal Parliament and Provincials Legislatures; that Constitutional provision should be made for obtaining such determination before, as well as after, a Statute has been acted upon; and that any decision should be subject to Appeal as in other cases, in order that the adjudication may be final.

3. That it is in the public interest, with a view to avoiding uncertainty, litigation and expense, that the constitutionality of Federal or Provincial Statutes should, not be open to question by private litigants, except within a limited time (say two years) from the passing thereof; that thereafter such constitutionality should only be questioned at the instance of a Government, Federal or Provincial; that any enactment decided, after the lapse of the limited time, to be unconstitutional should, for all purposes other than the mere pronouncing of the decision, be treated as if originally enacted by the Legislature or Parliament which had jurisdiction to enact the same, and as being subject to repeal or amendment by such Legislature or Parliament.

4. That a leading purpose of the Senate was to protect the interests of the respective Provinces as such; that a Senate to which the appointments are made by the Federal Government, and for life, affords no adequate security to the Provinces; and that, in case no other early remedy is provided, the British North America Act should be so amended as to limit the term for which Senators hold office, and to give the choice, as vacancies occur, to the Province to which the vacancy belongs, until, as to any Province, one half of the members of the Senate representing such Province are Senators chosen by the Province; that thereafter the mode of selection be as follows: if the vacancy is occasioned by the death, resignation or otherwise of a Senator chosen by a Province, that Province to choose his successor; and if the vacancy is occasioned by the death, resignation or otherwise of any other Senator, the vacancy to be filled as now provided by the Act, but only for a limited term of years.

5. That it was the intention of the British North America Act, and of the Provinces which were thereby confederated, that in respect of all matters as to which the Provincial Legislatures have authority, the Lieutenant-Governor of every Province as the Representative of the Sovereign in Provincial affairs, should have the same Executive authority as other Governors and Lieutenant-Governors of British Colonies and Provinces; that the Act has practically been so construed and acted upon in all the Provinces ever since Confederation; that it is of essential importance to the Provinces that this right should be maintained, and should be placed beyond doubt or question; that, there being no express provision in the Act declaring such right, and the right being in consequence occasionally denied and resisted, the Act should be amended by declaring its true construction to be according to the intention and practice as herein mentioned.

6. That the Federal authorities construe the British North America Act as giving to the Federal Parliament the power of withdrawing from Provincial jurisdiction local works situated within any Province, and though built in part or otherwise with the money of the Province or the Municipalities thereof; and of so withdrawing such local works (without compensation) by merely declaring the same to be for the general advantage of Canada or for the advantage of two or more provinces, whether that is or is not the true character of such works within the meaning of the Act; that it was not the intention that local works should be so withdrawn without the concurrence of the Provincial Legislature, or that the power of the Federal Parliament should apply to any other except "such works as shall, although lying wholly within any province, be specially declared by the Acts authorizing them, to be for the general advantage," as expressly mentioned in section 29, subsection 11, of the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference of 1864; and that the Act should be amended accordingly.

7. That there exists in each Province the requisite machinery for preparing voters lists and revising the same for elections to the Provincial Assembly; that without any detriment to either Federal or Provincial interests, the lists so prepared were used for twenty years at all Federal elections, under the express terms of the British North America Act and of subsequent statutes of the Federal Parliament; that the preparation of separate voters lists for Federal elections is cumbrous and confusing, and involves great loss of time and needless expense to all concerned therein; and that in the opinion of this Conference the British North America Act should be so amended as to provide that, at all elections to the

Federal Parliament, in any province, the qualification and lists of electors should be the same as for the Legislative Assembly of the Province.

8. That the intention of the British North America Act and of the several Provinces thereby confederated was, that the Provincial authorities should have the power of appointing Stipendiary, Police and other Magistrates, and all officers who are under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislatures; that ever since Confederation all such appointments have accordingly been made by Provincial authority; that it is just and right in the general interest that the Provinces should have this power; that a question has been raised in some of the Provincial Courts as to whether, by the technical effect of the Act, such power exists; and that, to remove all doubt on so important a matter, an amendment of the Act should be obtained, expressly declaring that the jurisdiction to make such appointments does belong to the Provinces.

9. That, according to the intention of the British North America Act and its promoters, the Provinces are entitled to all fees paid or payable on legal proceedings in the Provincial Courts; that the Provinces accordingly have always enjoyed or dealt with the revenue therefrom; that according to a recent decision of Her Majesty's Privy Council, the Provincial Legislatures cannot legislate as to such fees or apply the revenue to Provincial purposes; and that the Act should be so amended as to expressly give this Constitutional right.

10. That by the British North America Act the Provincial Legislatures have exclusive jurisdiction to make laws in relation to the administration of Justice, including the constitution, maintenance and organization of Provincial Courts, both of civil and criminal jurisdiction; that a judicial opinion has been expressed that a Lieutenant-Governor has the power of issuing commissions to hold Courts of Assize and Nisi Prius, Oyer and Terminer, and General Gaol Delivery, but the right to do so is considered to be so open to question that, when it is deemed necessary to hold such a Court, independent commissions expressed in the same terms have, by arrangement between the Federal and Provincial Governments, been issued by the Governor-General and the Lieutenant Governor; that it is expedient that all doubt should be removed, and the contrivance of two commissions rendered unnecessary; and that an amendment of the Act should expressly declare that the Lieutenant-Governors have power to issue such commissions, subject to Provincial statutes.

11. That it has been found by the experience of all Legislative bodies to be

necessary that they should possess certain privileges and immunities to enable them effectually to discharge the functions entrusted to them ; that, for this purpose, Acts have been passed by the Parliament of Canada, and confirmed by Imperial legislation, defining the privileges, immunities and powers of the two Houses and of the members thereof ; that Acts in like manner have been passed by several Provincial Legislatures, defining the privileges of their Legislative Councils and Legislative Assemblies ; that these Acts have not yet been confirmed by Imperial legislation ; that doubts have been expressed as to the power of the Provincial Legislatures to pass these laws ; that a Provincial Legislature should have the same power to pass Acts defining the privileges of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly and of the members thereof, as the Federal Parliament has to pass Acts defining the privileges of the Senate and House of Commons and of the members thereof ; that the Provincial Acts should be confirmed as the Federal Acts were ; and that it should be declared by the amending Imperial Statute that a Provincial Legislature has, with respect to itself, the same powers as the Federal Parliament has with reference to such Parliament.

12. That in two of the Provinces of the Dominion there is no second chamber ; that in five of the Provinces there is a second chamber ; that in one of these five the Legislative Council is elective and for a limited term ; that in the other four the appointments are by the Lieutenant-Governor and for life ; that the experience which has been had since Confederation shows that, under Responsible Government and with the safeguards provided by the British North America Act, a second Provincial chamber is unnecessary, and the expense thereof may in all the Provinces be saved with advantage ; that under the Act a Provincial Legislature has power to amend the Constitution of the Province ; that this power includes the abolition of the Legislative Council, or changing the method of constituting the same ; that the provision has failed to effect the abolition of the Council in some Provinces where public opinion is believed to favor such change ; and that the Act should, be so amended as to provide that, upon an Address of the House of Assembly, the elected representatives of the people, Her Majesty the Queen may by Proclamation abolish the Legislative Council, or change the constitution thereof provided that the Address is concurred in by at least two thirds of the members of such House of Assembly.



13. That by the British North America Act it is provided that all lands belonging to the several Provinces of Canada shall belong to the Provinces respectively in which they are situate; that the claim recently made by the Federal Government to all Crown Lands as to which there was no treaty with the Indians before Confederation, is contrary to the intention of the Act and of the Provinces confederated, is unjust, and is opposed to the construction which, until a recent period, the Act received from the Federal authorities, as well as from the Legislatures and Governments of the Provinces; and that the Act should be amended so as to make clear and indisputable in its technical effect, as well as its actual intention, that all such lands belong to the Province in which they are situate, and not to the Dominion.

14. That by the British North America Act the jurisdiction with respect to Bankruptcy and Insolvency is assigned to the Federal Parliament; that there is no Federal law on that subject now in force; that, in the absence of a law for the whole Dominion, it is in the public interest that each Province should be at liberty to deal with the matter, subject to any Federal law which may thereafter be passed; that it is doubtful how far under the present provisions of the Act, the Provincial Legislatures can deal with the subject; and it is desirable that the Act be amended by expressly giving to the Provinces the necessary jurisdiction, in the absence of and subject to any Federal law.

15. That it was provided by the 44th Resolution of the Quebec Conference of 1864, that "the power of respiting, reprieving and pardoning prisoners convicted of crimes; and of commuting and remitting of sentences in whole or in part, which belongs of right to the Crown, should be administered by the Lieutenant Governor to each Province in council," subject as in the said Resolution set forth; that all provision relating to this power was omitted from the British North America Act; that by the Royal instructions given to the Governor General subsequently to the passing of the Act, His Excellency is (among other things) "authorized and empowered, to grant any offender convicted of any crime in any Court or before any Judge, Justice or Magistrate within the Dominion, a pardon;" that by reason of this language and otherwise, doubts have arisen as to the power of a Lieutenant Governor of a Province to respite, reprieve or pardon prisoners convicted of an offence against the laws of the Province, or of commuting and remitting, in whole or in part, any sentence, fine, forfeiture, penalty or punishment in respect of any such

offence; that it is presumed this was not the purpose of the Instructions; that the power of dealing with all matters relating to the execution of Provincial laws should belong to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of each Province, leaving (if deemed desirable) the power of the Federal Government to apply to other cases; and that the Act should be amended accordingly.

16. That the Provinces represented at this Conference recognize the propriety of all questions as to the boundaries of the Provinces being settled and placed beyond dispute; that the boundaries between Ontario, Manitoba and the Dominion, so far as the same have been determined by Her Majesty in Privy Council should be established by Imperial Statute, as recommended by the Order of Her Majesty; and that the whole northern boundaries of Ontario and Quebec should be determined and established without further delay.

17. That by the British North America Act all the Customs and Excise duties, as well as certain other revenues of the Provinces, were transferred from the Provinces to the Dominion, and it was provided that the following sums should be paid yearly by the Dominion to the several Provinces for the support of their Governments and Legislatures:

Ontario.....	\$80,000
Quebec.....	70,000
Nova Scotia.....	60,000
New Brunswick.....	50,000

And that an annual grant in aid of each Province should be made, equal to 80 cents per head of the population as ascertained by the Census of 1861; with a special provision in the cases of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick;

(2) That the revenue of the Dominion, at the inception of Confederation, was \$13,716,786, of which 20 per cent or \$2,753,906 went to the Provinces for Provincial purposes, 80 per cent, or \$10,962,880, going to the Dominion; that by increased taxation, on an increased population, the Dominion revenue has been raised from \$13,716,786 to \$33,177,000; that, while this increased taxation is paid by the people of the Provinces, and the increase of population imposes upon the Provinces largely increased burdens, no corresponding increase of subsidy has been granted to them, 13 only, instead of 20 per cent, of the increased revenue of the Dominion, or \$4,182,525, being now allowed to the Provinces, while, instead of 80 per cent, 87 per cent, or \$28,994,475, is retained by the Dominion;

(3) That the yearly payments heretofore made by the Dominion to the several Provinces under the British North America Act have proved totally inadequate for the purposes thereby intended ; that the actual expenses of Civil Government and Legislation in the several Provinces greatly exceed the amount provided therefor by the Act ; and that the other expenditure necessary for those Local purposes which, before Confederation, were provided for out of Provincial funds, has largely increased since ;

(4) That several of the Provinces are not in a condition to provide, by direct taxation or otherwise, for the additional expenditure needed, and in consequence have from time to time applied to the Federal Parliament and Government for increased annual allowances ;

(5) That this Conference is of opinion that a basis for a final and unalterable settlement of the amounts to be yearly paid by the Dominion to the several Provinces for their Local purposes and the support of their Governments and Legislatures, may be found in the proposal following that is to say :

(A) Instead of the amounts now paid, the sums hereafter payable yearly by Canada to the several Provinces for the support of their Governments and Legislatures, to be according to population and as follows :—

(a) Where the population is under 150,000.....	\$100,000
(b) Where the population is 150,000 but does not exceed 200,000.....	150,000
(c) Where the population is 200,000 but does not exceed 400,000.....	180,000
(d) Where the population is 400,000 but does not exceed 800,000.....	190,000
(e) Where the population is 800,000 but does not exceed 1,500,000.....	220,000
(f) Where the population exceeds 1,500,000.....	240,000

(B) Instead of an annual grant per head of population now allowed, the annual payment hereafter to be at the same rate of eighty cents per head, but on the population of each Province as ascertained from time to time by the last decennial census, until such population exceeds 2,500,000 ; and at the rate of sixty cents per head for so much of said population as may exceed 2,500,000 ;

(C) The population, as ascertained by the last decennial census, to govern except as to British Columbia and Manitoba; and as to these two Provinces, the population to be taken to be that upon which, under the respective statutes in that behalf, the annual payments now made to them respectively by the Dominion are fixed, until the actual population is by the census ascertained to be greater; and thereafter the actual population, so ascertained, to govern;

(D) The amounts so to be paid and granted yearly by the Dominion to the Provinces respectively to be declared by Imperial enactment to be final and absolute, and not within the power of the Federal Parliament to alter, add to or vary;

(6) That the following table shows the amounts which, instead of those now payable for Government and Legislation and *per capita* allowances, would hereafter be annually payable by the Dominion to the several Provinces (the same being calculated according to the last decennial census for the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, and according to the limit of population now fixed by statute for the Provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba:)

Province	Population census 1881	Allowance for Government and Legislation	The subsidy per head	Total allowance for Government &c. and subsidy
Ontario.....	1,923,328	\$240,000	\$1,538,662 40	\$1,778,662 40
Quebec.....	1,359,027	220,000	1,087,221 60	1,307,221 60
Nova Scotia.....	440,572	190,000	352,457 60	542,457 60
New Brunswick.....	321,233	180,000	256,986 40	436,986 40
Prince Edward Island	108,891	100,000	87,112 80	187,112 80
Manitoba.....	150,000	150,000	120,000 00	270,000 00
British Columbia.....	60,000	100,000	48,000 00	148,000 00
		\$1,180,000	\$3,490,440 80	\$4,670,440 80

(7) That this Conference deems it desirable that the proposal above set forth should be considered by the Governments of the several Provinces of the Dominion; and, if approved of, should be submitted to the Provincial Legislatures.

18. That, in the opinion of this Conference, the several Provinces of the Dominion, through their respective Legislatures, should at the earliest practicable moment take steps with the view of securing the enactment by the Imperial Parliament of amendments to the British North America Act in accordance with the foregoing Resolutions.

## RESOLUTIONS

### *Respecting Provincial Legislation in certain matters.*

There having been submitted for the consideration of this Conference some matters of inter-provincial interest and concern in respect whereof no amendment of the British North America Act is necessary, this Conference, as to certain of the said matters, Resolves as follows :

19. That, in view of the doubts which arise from time to time as to the respective powers of the Federal Parliament and Provincial Legislatures, it is expedient and just that it should be enacted by the respective Provincial Legislatures, that no action shall lie against any Judge, Stipendiary or Police Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, or Officer, for any act done under the supposed authority of a Statutory provision which may afterwards be held to have been beyond the Legislative jurisdiction of Parliament or the Legislature which enacted the same, provided the action would not lie against him if the statutory provision had been within such legislative jurisdiction.

20. That it is desirable that the laws of the several Provinces for the enforcement of debts should be assimilated as far as may be consistent with the different legal systems prevailing in the respective Provinces; that this Conference is of opinion that such assimilation should include provisions against preferences by insolvent debtors, and provisions for the examination of debtors, and for

taking speedy possession of an insolvent's estate for the benefit of his creditors ; so far as these subjects can be dealt with by the Provincial Legislatures.

21. That this Conference approves of there being legislative provision in the several Provinces of the Dominion for rendering effectual in all the Provinces (subject to proper conditions) Probates and Letters of Administration granted in any one of them.

22. That this Conference approves of a similar law, being passed in all the Provinces (subject to proper conditions) with respect to Probates and Letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom, to go into effect when Probates and Letters of Administration granted in the Dominion are by Imperial legislation made effectual in the United Kingdom.

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Resolved. That copies of the foregoing resolutions be formally communicated by the President on behalf of this Conference to the Federal Government, and that the Conference do cordially invite the cooperation of the Federal Government in carrying into effect the Resolutions.

Resolved. That copies of the foregoing resolutions be also transmitted by the President of this Conference, to the respective Governments of the Provinces, not represented at this Conference, namely Prince-Edward Island and British Columbia, with a view to their concurrence in and support of the conclusions arrived at by this Conference.

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The following Resolution was adopted :

That the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba, at its last session, enacted a measure providing for the construction of a Railway from the City of Winnipeg to the Town of West Lynne, known as the Red River Valley Railway ; that the line of the proposed Railway is within the original limits of the Province of Manitoba, as defined by 33 Vic., Cap. 3, of the Statutes of Canada ; that by the subsequent Act (44 Vict., c. 14.) for the extension of the boundaries of the Province, it was enacted — “ that the said increased limit and the territory thereby added to the Province of Manitoba shall be subject to all such provisions as may have been or shall hereafter be enacted respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway and the lands to be granted in aid thereof ” ; that this provision does not apply



to the original limits of the Province ; that the Province of Manitoba, in accepting the extension of its boundaries on the condition mentioned, did not surrender any right, power or franchise which may be exercised by the Province within its original limits ; that the Legislature, in passing its measure for the construction of the Red River Valley Railway, acted within its Constitutional powers ; that the Act has, notwithstanding, been disallowed by the Federal Government ; that this Conference views with alarm this encroachment of the Federal upon Provincial power, by which the will of the people of a Province, in a matter within Provincial jurisdiction, is subordinated to the will of the Central power ; and that this Conference desires to express its sympathy with the people and Legislature of Manitoba in their struggle for the constitutional rights of their Province.

The delegates from the Province of New-Brunswick did not concur in this motion and wished their dissent to be placed on record.

The following Resolution was also adopted :

1. That having reference to the agitation on the subject of the trade relations between the Dominion and the United-States, this Inter-Provincial Conference, consisting of representatives of all political parties, desires to record its opinion that unrestricted reciprocity would be of advantage to all the Provinces of the Dominion ; that this Conference and the people it represents cherish fervent loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and warm attachment to British connection ; that this Conference is of opinion that a fair measure, providing, under proper conditions, for unrestricted reciprocal trade relations between the Dominion and the United States, would not lessen these sentiments on the part of our people ; and on the contrary may even serve to increase them and would at the same time, in connection with an adjustment of the Fishery dispute, tend to happily settle grave difficulties which have from time to time arisen between the mother country and the United-States.

Some formal Resolutions were afterwards passed and the Conference thereupon closed its proceedings on Friday the 28th October at 2 o'clock P. M.

(Signed) OLIVER MOWAT,  
*President.*

ALFRED EVANTUREL M. P. P.,  
*Honorary Secretary.*

GUSTAVE GRENIER,  
*Recording Secretary.*

At the close of the Conference, HON. MR. LONGLEY moved, seconded by Hon. MR. NORQUAY : " That the visiting delegates to this Conference desire, before separating, to record their appreciation of the unvarying courtesies of Hon. Mr. Mercier and his colleagues during the meeting of the Interprovincial Congress, and to express their warm sense of unceasing hospitalities received both from the Government and citizens of Quebec during their entire visit ; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to His Worship the Mayor to be communicated to the citizens of Quebec city. "

In proposing this motion Hon. MR. LONGLEY said :—As we are now drawing to an end the most successful labors of this Conference, which all hope will result in advantage to the country at large, I feel that it is due to the visiting delegates to recognize in some direct and tangible manner the great courtesies and kindnesses received by them at the hands of their friends in Quebec. I myself had the pleasure of visiting Quebec on the occasion of the banquet given last May by the people of Quebec to the Hon. Mr. Mercier, in consideration of his successful discharge of the duties of his new and important position. I anticipated an invitation to be present on behalf of Nova Scotia, and during the several days I remained here I was made sensible of the wonderful capacities of the people of Quebec in the direction of hospitality and entertainment. Therefore I was in some measure prepared for the magnificent hospitality which the Government and citizens of Quebec have extended to the visiting delegates. I presume the most of my associates were not so well prepared, and therefore I am out expressing their sentiments when I declare that the efforts which have been made to secure our social enjoyment during the visit to the city have evoked the very highest admiration to the degree of creating embarrassment on our part. Not only have the Hon. Mr. Mercier and his colleagues performed all possible duties in their province, but they have seemed to have had the co-operation of the entire citizens of Quebec, and in this regard I must not omit to mention the efforts of the ladies, which have been as truly appreciative as any other for our entertainment. I recognize the fact that this Conference is likely to have a most important bearing on the future of this great Dominion. Difficulties have existed between our various Provinces and sectional feelings have to a large degree prevailed, which was in some measure, no doubt, due to the fact that there has been an absence of frequency of interchange of

opinion and that the public men of the several Provinces have not taken the care which should attend the interests of others. This Convention has brought about much more familiarity and has provoked in some measure feelings of intimacy and kindly regard on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia. I am speaking in the name of my co-delegates as well as myself and I am sure that they will gladly welcome at all times people from all the Provinces. When I speak of the courtesies received from the citizens of Quebec and the ladies, I am touching a chord which will evoke a warm response from all the delegates here present. The varied social re-unions which form such an important feature in the life of man have made a lasting and profound impression on the minds of the visiting delegates. I may mention that, in anticipation of my submitting such a resolution, there has been a general desire on the part of the delegates to have the privilege of seconding it. The exercise of this important piece of patronage has been an important and a delicate difficulty, and a measure of great delicacy, difficulty and embarrassment, but being compelled at last to make a choice, I feel as representing the extreme eastern portion of the Provinces, that my selection should be made from the extreme west, and I have therefore selected the Hon. John Norquay to second this resolution.

HON. J. NORQUAY, on rising to second the motion by HON. MR. LONGLEY, said he appreciated the selection made by the mover of the resolution in doing him the honor to second the motion, which he had great pleasure in doing. He felt he could not do justice in words to the great kindness and courtesy that had been extended to them, the delegates, by the Hon. Mr. Mercier, Madame Mercier, the Mayor, and the good people of the city of Quebec. He felt bound to say that now that their labors were about closing, that his stay in the Ancient Capital had been one of continual pleasure; that although he felt at times to resent the assiduity with which the Chairman had kept them down to their work, in order that he might avail himself of the opportunity afforded by this visit to see more of the beauties of the place than he could on account of devotion to work, that now that the close had been about reached he could pay this tribute to the members of the Conference, and worthy Chairman included, that they had devoted themselves with unsparing patience to the discharge of their duties, and he felt sure that the result of their labors would be in future years recognized as a monument to their honor. He took a special delight in viewing the beautiful landscape surrounding the city, the magnificent river that rolled down to the sea, and other points of interest of historic

importance. Before resuming his seat he must congratulate the convener of the Conference, the Hon. Premier of Quebec, on the success that has attended the deliberations of that body, and if there was any one thing that he might be excused for regretting, it would be the efficiency with which they had treated every subject which might possibly preclude the expediency of another Convention within the near future. He said he could not resume his seat without recognizing the kindness and courtesy shown them by Madame Mercier during their stay in the city, and said that when they took their departure they would be laboring under a great obligation to the Premier, his excellent lady, the Mayor and the good people of Quebec, that they would look back with pleasure to the time they had spent amongst them and the enjoyment they had had as recipients of the hospitality so generously tendered them, which lightened their labors and made them loathe to depart.

HON. MR. MERCIER then said :

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN,

In acknowledging the thanks which you have been kind enough to tender me and my colleagues, I feel that I cannot allow this Conference to close without giving expression to the gratitude felt by the Government, Legislature and people of Quebec, for the promptness with which the representatives of the Provinces of Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba have responded to our invitation to meet in this Interprovincial Conference for the purpose of discussing matters of general interest to the several Provinces.

Five out of the seven Provinces which constitute the Dominion have accepted our invitation. These five provinces comprise 4,110,014 inhabitants out of 4,824,810, the total population of Canada, inclusive of the Territories (56,446) which were not invited and could not be represented, and the expression of the unanimous opinion of these five provinces upon matters of such importance as those which have been dealt with by this Conference cannot fail to carry great weight.

I am sure that, with me, you will regret that our sister Provinces of British Columbia and Prince Edward Island did not send representatives to our meeting, but, notwithstanding, we have not overlooked the interests which they have in common with us.

Even if this Conference had had no other effect than that of bringing together the members of the Governments of the several Provinces, and enabling them to compare their views on the various subjects which have been dealt with, it would still have been a success, but when, in addition to this, we consider the importance of the questions which have been discussed and brought to a favorable solution, it is evident that our labors will assuredly be productive of the most beneficial results as regards the future government and welfare of the Provinces.

After mature deliberation and friendly discussion of all the imperfections which have fettered the free working of our Constitution we have come to an unanimous conclusion as to the defects which exist and the remedy which should be applied to them.

Amongst the numerous propositions of vital importance which are comprised in the series of resolutions unanimously adopted by this Conference, and signed by every one of its members, I am happy to state that the autonomy of the Provinces has been most positively asserted as the real basis of our form of Government, and the only guarantee of its maintenance.

The proposed modifications as to the power of disallowance, the mode of deciding the constitutionality of our Federal and Provincial laws, the constitution of the Senate and Legislative Councils, the right of the Federal authorities over Provincial works entirely situate in one Province, the qualification of electors for Federal representation, the winding up of insolvent estates, the resolutions which you have adopted with reference to the boundaries of the various Provinces and especially Ontario and Quebec, and also as to the power of pardon, will no doubt meet the views of the intelligent portion of the community, and the true friends of our common country.

The very difficult question of the financial position of the Provinces and their respective claims has been satisfactorily dealt with, and, after a thorough and unprejudiced discussion of the matter, the Delegates to the Conference have come to a conclusion which, if carried out, will meet the requirements of the various Provinces, without detriment to the general interests of the Dominion.

If our labors have been so successful it is undoubtedly due to the assiduity and courtesy displayed by the members of the Conference, and the harmony and

good-feeling which have prevailed throughout their deliberations. For my part, I may say that, before we convened I had already formed a high opinion of your capacity as public men, but now that I have had an opportunity of observing the able manner in which you have expressed your views, I feel that I do not flatter when I say that I congratulate our Sister Provinces on having their affairs administered by such able and practical men, and men so devoted to the interests of their Provinces.

I am happy to state that the most prominent features of the proceedings of this Conference have been attachment to our Federal Institutions and loyalty to our Gracious Sovereign.

I am sure I but express the feelings of those who are present at this Conference when I say that we are all deeply indebted to the Honorable Mr. Mowat who has so ably presided over our deliberations and whose great experience and well-known abilities as a Statesman have greatly facilitated our labors by helping us to solve the difficult questions which we had to discuss.

A very pleasant feature in connection with the Conference has been the presence in our Capital of ladies from the other Provinces whose visit on this occasion has contributed so much to the enjoyment of our citizens, and who will leave most charming recollections behind them.

We were glad to have you all with us while we were celebrating our Arbor Day, and the trees which you have planted will serve to perpetuate the remembrance of your presence and labors in our midst. When your fellow-citizens visit Quebec, these trees, which will be the object of our special care, will serve to remind them of those whose so worthily represented them on this important occasion.

Permit me in the name of the Province of Quebec, in bidding you farewell, to say how happy it has been to tender you its hospitality and how sincerely it prays for your welfare and the prosperity of your provinces.

HON. MR. MERCIER then moved, seconded by Hon. Messrs. FIELDING, BLAIR and NORQUAY,—That thanks be tendered to the Hon. Mr. Mowat for the able manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of this Conference.



HON. MR. FIELDING said :—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion that has just been made by the Honorable the Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec. I share with him the opinion that it has been very much to our advantage that we have had as the presiding officer of this Conference, a gentleman, who not only occupies a very difficult position among the Statesmen of the country, but is also one of those who participated in the Conference which was held in this city in the year 1864. From time to time, the proceedings of that Conference have been referred to in connection with our present meeting. It is but a duty I owe to my Province, to say, that the meeting in 1864, which was the beginning of the Confederation scheme, is not regarded in Nova Scotia with the same favor as in the Province of Quebec. The Province of Canada by its Legislature, assented to to the arrangement proposed by the Conference of 1864. The Province of Nova Scotia never really by its people assented to the scheme of Confederation. In view of that fact, and of the deep feeling which has existed in the Province of Nova Scotia, in relation, both to the terms of union and to the manner in which the Union was brought about, I have found it necessary, both in justice to my own views, and to the views which I believe to be entertained by a large majority of the people of my Province, to present to the Conference a very strong statement of the position of Nova Scotia. I could not expect that the members of the Conference would concur in my views; I recognize the fact that I speak from an exceptional standpoint, but I have the gratification of knowing that the views which I have felt it my duty to present, have made more impression upon the Conference, and that the public men of the other Provinces have been willing to recognize perhaps in a larger degree than before, the fact that the grievances of Nova Scotia were not without just cause. We necessarily approach the consideration of this question from a different standpoint from that occupied by others. We do not know at this moment what course we may feel bound to pursue in the future, in relation to the questions which have excited so much discussion in the past, and we do not intend to tie our hands, but I have always held, and I hold now that so long as our Province is within a union, it is our duty to make, not the worst of Confederation, but the best of it. In that spirit we have been ready to unite with the delegates from our sister Provinces, in considering matters of common interest to all the Provinces, and to assist, if we could, in securing such reforms as seem to be necessary, as much for Nova Scotia

as for the other Provinces. I feel deeply impressed with the generous spirit which has pervaded our Conference. I have not failed to urge my own views, but I hope I have been willing to consider the difficulties of the other Provinces as well. And I am satisfied that there has been on all hands, an honest desire to seek reasonable remedies for such difficulties as are recognized by all. It may be that we shall not be able to satisfy all. We from Nova Scotia, and the same may be said from the other Provinces, have not been commissioned to make any bargain or arrangement here; hence we do not undertake to bind our Government or our Legislature to what is done. Of course we have only agreed to that, which all things considered, we think will improve the position of Nova Scotia, but if it shall be found that what has been agreed to is not calculated to advance our interests, we do not undertake to commit our Province to it; nevertheless, we hope that in view of the generous spirit that has been manifested at the Conference every Province may find it in their interest to accept the result of this Conference as beneficial, although it is necessary to maintain on behalf of the people of Nova Scotia, a right to seek, if they see fit, a separation of their Province from the Dominion.

It has been claimed in the past, that by participating in the consideration of matters of common concern, our Province has been debarred from seeking a separation; we do not intend that by any act of ours, we shall restrict the freedom of our people. The Conference has dealt with matters of great importance. I believe that while our Province remains a member of the Confederation, her position will be important under the measures which we have suggested. One advantage of this Conference which I readily recognize, is, that by bringing together men of the several Provinces, and having the views of each Province stated with frankness and candour, we are all able to consider these questions in a better light, and to have due regard for what possibly may be considered the prejudices of each. We have learned much from one another, and even apart from the main purpose of the Conference, ought to be able to discharge our duties in our respective Provinces the better, because we have obtained a more intimate knowledge of what has been done in the other Provinces. Concerning the splendid hospitality with which we have been received, what words of mine could adequately express our appreciation of the kindness of the Hon. Mr. Mercier, and the members of his Cabinet, of the ladies of their families, and of the citizens of Quebec, irrespective of political distinctions. From the moment of our arrival, until the present time, we have

been constantly reminded of the desire of the public and private citizens of Quebec, and of their families, to make our visit pleasant; we feel deeply gratified for it all. To-day, most of us will leave to mingle in other scenes and soon to resume our duties at our respective Capitals. I fear that our hearts will be left behind; possibly, in some instances, that observation should not be confined to those who are in single blessedness. We shall carry away the most pleasant recollections of our visit to your ancient city, and shall always be glad, if opportunity is afforded us, either in our own Province, or here, to welcome those who have placed us under so many obligations, and I am sure we will look forward with pleasure to a return to the city in which we have experienced from the public men, and from the private citizens, and, by no means, least from the ladies of the Capital, the utmost kindness and courtesy."

HON. MR. BLAIR said:—Permit me to echo the sentiments which have already found such fitting expression in the speeches of my friends from Nova Scotia and Manitoba. We from New Brunswick, in common with the other representatives, feel ourselves under deep obligations to the Prime Minister of Ontario for the marked ability and courtesy with which he has discharged the somewhat onerous duties of President of the Conference. I am free to say that when I accepted the invitation of our friend the Prime Minister of Quebec to meet in Conference the representatives of the other Provinces of the Dominion, I had little expectation that our session would have been so harmonious or have resulted in an agreement upon so many points of interest to the people of the several Provinces. Many of the questions upon which an agreement has been reached were necessarily of a difficult character, leading to the expression of divers views, and if what we have agreed upon shall be of any advantage to the people of the several Provinces and to the people of Canada as a whole, it is not too much to say that for that advantage we are largely indebted to the assistance in all ways received from our presiding officer. It was a courteous act on the part of the Prime Minister of Quebec who, as the convener of the Conference, would naturally take the position of President, to invite our friend Mr. Mowat to take the Chairmanship, and his act I am sure has been appreciated by us all. I heartily re-echo the very cordial expressions which have been uttered here as to the hospitality and kindness of the members of the Quebec Government and of the citizens of the city of Quebec generally. Their hospitality and kindness has been unsurpassed, and I am sure that if no other results shall follow from our meeting, it will have been fully justified in

the friendships which have sprung up already from it and the advantages which must accrue from these prominent representatives of the different Provinces becoming so intimately acquainted with one another. I am heartily glad on Mr. Mercier's account, whose acquaintance we have many of us made for the first time here, that the serious responsibility of bringing about this Interprovincial meeting has been so abundantly justified by the results. When the resolutions upon which we have agreed shall have been submitted to those of our colleagues in the respective Governments which have not been here represented, and, being approved, shall then be made public through the press, I am assured that it will be the common opinion that we have accomplished a work of very great difficulty and of common interest to the people of Canada and to all the provinces respectively. I shall go back to my colleagues in New Brunswick able, I think, to show them not that in any of these matters my colleagues from New Brunswick and myself have succeeded in accomplishing all that we could desire, but, presenting to them the views of other representatives, I think I shall be able to show them that, while the interests of other provinces have not been overlooked, those of my own province have been fully protected.

The Hon. Mr. Norquay also spoke to the motion.

HON. OLIVER MOWAT said:—In acknowledging the resolution, I must be very brief. It gives me great pleasure to say that this Conference has given me an opportunity of forming new friendships which I greatly value, and which I hope to retain for the rest of my life. I appreciate the honor which the Conference did in appointing me as the chairman, and I think it my duty to say that whilst I have attended many meetings of various kinds for public purposes, including the Quebec Conference of 1864, I have never had to do with a body of men who manifested more ability, candour or patriotism than the members of this Conference have done. I have specially observed how thoroughly every resolution has been discussed, and at the same time how little repetition there has been. In fact I cannot recall any discussions on important subjects in any public body in which there has been so little of mere talk, so little said not material to the subject. I am extremely grateful for the kind way in which the resolution and speeches have referred to myself and to the manner in which I have discharged my duties as chairman; and I trust that the work which we have now brought to a conclusion will prove of service to our country.

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# FESTIVITIES

A report of the Conference would necessarily be incomplete without some reference to the brilliant social festivities by which it was accompanied. These pleasant events not only marked the warmth of the welcome extended by the province and city of Quebec to the official representatives of the other provinces, but lent additional lustre and importance to the meeting of the delegates. They were on a scale of unsurpassed magnificence and grandeur and the experience which they furnished of the proverbial hospitality and courtesy of the Quebecers was of the most agreeable and enduring character. From the arrival of the visiting delegates to their departure from the historic city of Quebec, they were the recipients of the utmost kindness and polite attention, as well on the part of the Quebec ministers, as of the population generally, and no pains were spared to make their stay as memorable for them as it was enjoyable. In this generous task, the Premier of Quebec, Hon. H. Mercier, took the lead, and, with the hearty cooperation of the city authorities and principal citizens, his efforts were crowned with the most complete success.

## ARRIVAL OF THE VISITING DELEGATES

The first of the visiting delegates to reach Quebec were the representatives of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Hon. Messrs Blair and McLellan, and Hon. Messrs Fielding, Longley and McGillivray, accompanied by Mrs Fielding, Mrs Longley and Miss Blair. The distinguished party arrived by the Intercolonial Railway at 8 p. m., on the 19th October, and were met and welcomed at the station by the Premier of Quebec and his colleagues, Hon. Messrs Shehyn, Gagnon and McShane, Mr Charles Langelier, M. P., Mr Jules Tessier, M. P. P., and a number of prominent citizens. The visiting ministers were then conducted in carriages to the St Louis Hotel, where they were invited to the apartments of Hon. Mr McShane and sumptuously entertained by the hospitable Commissioner of Quebec Public Works. The Ontario ministers, Hon. Messrs Mowat, Hardy, G. W. Ross, Fraser and A. M. Ross, accompanied by Mrs Mowat and by Mr Evan-turel, M. P. P., for Prescott, arrived by the C. P. R. train two hours later and were

also met and welcomed by the Quebec Premier and his colleagues accompanied by Mr Speaker Marchand, of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. F. Langelier, M. P., Mayor of Quebec, Messrs Bernatchez, Sylvestre and Trudel, M. P.'s, Dr Durocher, of Terrebonne, Mr Charles Fitzpatrick, Lieut-Colonels Roy and Evanturel, and many others too numerous to specify. Hon. Mr and Mrs Mowat were driven to the residence of Hon. Jos. Shehyn, Treasurer of Quebec, whose guests they remained during their stay, and the other members of the Ontario delegation had apartments provided for them in the St Louis Hotel, whose rotunda and halls continued thronged until a late hour with citizens anxious to welcome the official representatives of the sister provinces. Hon. Messrs Norquay and Hamilton, of the Manitoba Government, accompanied by Mrs Hamilton, arrived the next day (20th October) and were accorded an equally cordial reception.

#### ENTERTAINMENT OF THE DELEGATES

Every thoughtful and courteous attention, befitting the dignity of a great province like Quebec, was paid by its Government to the comfort of the visiting delegates. Handsome and convenient accommodation for the representatives of each province was provided in proximity to the general meeting room of the Conference in the Departmental Buildings, and the members of the Congress were entertained daily by the Premier of Quebec at a sumptuous lunch, at which they had the pleasure of meeting by invitation the principal ecclesiastical dignitaries of the city, both Roman Catholic and Protestant, as well as a number of the more prominent and influential citizens, French and English speaking.

#### VISITS TO PLACES OF INTEREST

Not were the recreation and health of the ministers of the other provinces neglected during their stay. During the afternoon of the 20th October, the date of the opening of the Conference, they were treated by the Quebec ministers to one of those beautiful and interesting drives for which the environs of Quebec are so famous. The route taken was around St. Foy church by the St. Louis road, past the historic Plains of Abraham, and back in by the St. Foy road. Spencer Wood was visited on the way and the splendid hospitality of the gubernatorial mansion was dispensed by Mr. Burroughs, brother-in-law and secretary of Lieut.-Governor Masson (at the time in Europe). The ministers were accompanied by



Mr. Speaker Marchand, Mr. Jules Tessier, M. P. P., Messrs. Bernatchez, Chairman, Pilon, Sylvestre, St-Hilaire, Bazinet and Baldwin, members, and Edge, secretary, of the Agricultural Commission, Mr. Bastedo, private secretary to Hon. Mr. Mowat, Mr. J. Boivin, private secretary to Hon. Mr. Mercier, Mr. Sheridan, private secretary to Hon. Mr. McShane, Mr. U. Barthe, of *L'Electeur*, and by the following ladies: Mrs. Mowat, Madame Mercier, Madame Shehyn, Mrs. Longley, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Downs, Mrs. B. A. Scott, Madame Marchand, the Misses Marchand, Blair, Shehyn, DeCazes, &c. In the afternoon of Saturday, the 22nd October, the delegates and their ladies were taken by Mr. Premier Mercier and his colleagues on a delightful trip on the river by the steam yacht *Vega* to Montmorency Falls—the Louise Basin, the Harbor Works and the Graving Dock at St Joseph de Levis being visited and admired on the way and a magnificent lunch being served on board. On Sunday, the 23rd, after attending divine service in the city churches of their respective persuasions, all the visiting delegates, with the exception of Hon. Mr. Mowat, returned to Montmorency Falls where they enjoyed the magnificent hospitality of H. M. Price, Esq., on ground rendered historic by the residence of H. R. H. Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, father of Our Most Gracious Sovereign. Visits were also paid during the continuance of the Conference to Laval University, the Citadel and other points of local interest; a number of others, which had been planned had to be relinquished owing to unpropitious weather. Individually, too, the members of the Quebec Government vied with each other in contributing to the enjoyment of the distinguished visitors. Exquisite dinners were given by Hon. Mr. Shehyn at his palatial residence, Baudon Lodge, and by Hon. Mr. McShane at the St Louis Hotel, and magnificent receptions, attended by the elite of the city, were held in their honor by Hon. D. A. and Mrs. Ross, as well as by Madame Judge L. B. Caron.

#### MADAME MERCIER'S RECEPTION

But the most marked, as it was also the most brilliant of the festivities in their honor was the grand reception held by Madame Mercier, wife of the Prime Minister of Quebec, at the Parliament Buildings on the evening of the 21st October. It is no exaggeration to say that a more magnificent event was never before witnessed in the ancient capital of Canada so famous for the number and splendor of its social demonstrations. The grandeur of the decorations, the large at-

tendance of notabilities from all parts of the province, the throng of cultured guests, the beauty of the ladies and their toilettes, and the princely character and extent of the hospitality—all combined to render the scene one of extraordinary impressiveness long to be remembered and to reflect the highest credit upon the province and its official representatives. The handsome approach to the main entrance of the Buildings and the rich appearance of the massive plate glass doors, permitting a full view of the brilliantly illuminated rotunda, the lofty corridors where the gas light blazed in all the colors of the rainbow through fancy tinted shades and into comfortable dressing rooms, the freshly polished wainscoting and flooring of fancy tiles, the staircases of shining black walnut, all betokened the care and taste that had been lavished in preparation for the event and were a fitting prelude to the gorgeous scene that followed. The decorations of the Chambers of the Legislative Council and Assembly were on a most extensive and ornate scale—the effect being exceedingly striking and beautiful. A wealth of tastefully arranged flags and banners and of mottoes and inscriptions, breathing loyalty, welcome and brotherhood, met the eye on all sides in the two Chambers. In that of the Legislative Assembly, one of the most salient of these decorations was the large inscription “Welcome to the Delegates to the Interprovincial Conference” framed in verdure and bunting. Over the throne, which was surmounted by a massive and picturesque dome and around which were ranged the arms of all the provinces of the Dominion, appeared in the French language the loyal motto “God Save the Queen,” while underneath it glittered the name of Her Majesty’s representative in the Province: “Masson.” Opposite at the other extremity of the Chamber was placed in bold relief the inscription “The Province of Quebec bids the representatives of the sister provinces welcome,” while along the sides figured the words “Welcome Ontario,” “Welcome Nova Scotia” “Welcome New Brunswick,” “Welcome Manitoba.” “In the Legislative Council Chamber, the *coup d’œil* was equally effective and embraced in the line of inscriptions “God Save the Queen,” “Stuart,” “Welcome to the representatives of the sister provinces,” “Mowat,” “Mercier,” “Blair,” “Fielding” and “Norquay,” while in both halls the nooks and corners were transformed into delicious, fairy-like retreats of natural flowers held in elegantly designed vases or resting upon richly upholstered stands. The company assembled to enjoy Madame Mercier’s charming hospitality was as numerous as it was representative of the intelligence and culture, the wealth and distinction, and the fashion and beauty of the entire province. Several thousand cards had been

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issued for the occasion without regard to party proclivities and at least 1500 guests accepted Madame Mercier's generous invitation "to meet the delegates to the Interprovincial Conference." The tribute of respect paid and the welcome extended to the representatives of the other provinces of the Dominion could hardly have been more all-embracing or more cordial. Almost every district, county, city or town of the province of Quebec was represented. Of course, for local reasons, the capital and the town of Levis contributed by far the largest proportion of guests, but the commercial metropolis, Montreal, also, sent a contingent of several hundred of its most notable citizens, including ex-Mayor Beaugrand, Col. A. A. Stevenson, Ald. Grenier, Ald. Cunningham, Darling, Henderson, Beausoleil, M. P., J. X. Perreault, J. P. Whelan, S. C. Stevenson. Richmond sent its mayor, M. Harp, and Nicolet, its mayor, Mr. Manseau, Rimouski, its mayor Mr. Pouliot, Ste-Anne de la Perade, Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie, Sherbrooke, Messrs. Connolly and L. A. Belanger, and Missisquoi, Mr. McCorkell. The Federal Parliament was represented by the distinguished leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, Hon. W. Laurier, Senators Bolduc and J. G. Ross, and Messrs Amyot, Choquette, Casgrain, Guay, Rinfret, Bechard, Turcot and McGreevy, M. P's; the Quebec Legislature by Hon. Messrs Blanchet, Dorion, Gilman, Hearn, Gingras and Remillard, and by Messrs Cardin, Dechene, Caron, Rinfret, Lemieux, Murphy, Martin, (Rimouski) Faucher de St-Maurice, and other M. P. P's. and R. G. Meikle, ex M. P. P., the judiciary, by Judges Plamondon and Caron, the foreign consulates, by the Consuls General of France and Spain and the Consul of the United States; the Press, by representatives of all the local papers and the *Toronto Globe*, the *Montreal Gazette*, *Herald*, *Witness*, *Star*, *Patrie*, &c.; and the military by a brilliant staff, whose glittering uniforms and appointments afforded a pleasing contrast to the sober black of the civilians. The central figures in the brilliant company were, of course, the hosts of the evening, the members of the Quebec Government, and their honored guests, the official representatives of the other Provinces, Hon. Messrs Mowat, Fraser, Hardy, A. M. Ross and G. W. Ross, of Ontario, Blair and McLennan of New Brunswick, Fielding, Longley and McGillivray, of Nova Scotia, Norquay and Hamilton, of Manitoba, and Mr. Evanturel, M. P. P. with their ladies. The reception took place in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Madame Mercier who captivated all hearts by her grace and amiability being supported by her daughter Miss Mercier, and her husband, the Premier of Quebec. The presentation occupied upwards of an hour.

M. S. S. Hatt, Usher of the Black-Rod, Major Crawford Lindsay, Lt.-Col. Evanturel and Mr. C. Burroughs acted as masters of ceremonies and discharged their duties to perfection. After the presentation, the festivity took the form of a charming musical and literary *soirée*, with a select and brilliantly executed programme.

One of the most pleasing incidents of the evening occurred about 11.30 when another strong contingent arrived by the train from Montreal and asked to be received by Mr. and Madame Mercier in the parlors of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. It consisted of a deputation from *Le Trappeur* and *Le Canadien* Snow Shoe Clubs of that city, of which the Premier of Quebec is an honorary officer, bearing a number of magnificent bouquets to Madame Mercier. Mr. Beaugrand, honorary president of *Le Trappeur* Club, made the presentation of the charming tokens of admiration and respect in admirable terms and Hon. Mr. Mercier expressed his own and Madame Mercier's thanks in equally happy language. The delegates were Messrs. Horace Boisseau, vice-president of the Retail Merchants' Association, Granger, Vice-President of *Le Trappeur*, Cyprien Robert, Rivard, Bourgouin, Boisseau, Hamel, Lacombe, Bureau, Bogue, Lemieux, Morin, president of the St. Hyacinthe Snow Shoe Club, Roy, Desmarais and Blanchet; Lalonde, vice-president of *Le Canadien* Club, Papineau, Dauray, Deslauriers, Wilson, Tremblay, Dugal, I. A. Beauvais, &c. The *fête* was prolonged until two in the morning and a most enjoyable time was spent by all present, the spacious corridors affording ample room for all the promenading that was desired. Light refreshments were served throughout the evening and supper, which was of a lavish and most *recherché* character in the capable hands of Victor of Montreal, at midnight. Finally, the numerous company separated highly delighted with the magnificent hospitality of Hon. Mr. and Madame Mercier and one of the most brilliant and successful of social events was brought to an end; but its pleasant memories will long be cherished.

#### THE CITIZENS' BALL

The grand ball given by the citizens of Quebec on the evening of the 25th October in honor of the delegates to the Conference took the form of another magnificent popular demonstration highly complimentary to the distinguished visitors. It might be considered also in the light of a spontaneous and general return by

the citizens for the generous hospitality which they had enjoyed at Madame Mercier's reception on the previous Tuesday night, as well as a recognition of the honor done their city in its selection as the scene of a meeting so important as the Conference between the leading men of all the provinces for the general good. As such, it was one of the most brilliant and successful of the whole series of festivities on the occasion, and it is only right to say that the Quebecers would not have been true to their old-time reputation for hospitality, had they been satisfied with anything less. The committee of management was composed of His Worship the Mayor of Quebec, Hon. F. Langelier, M. P., President, Mr Andrew Thomson, Vice President, Messrs P. B. Casgrain, M. P., and L. F. Peters, Treasurers, and Messrs W. J. Desbarats and Ernest Pacaud, Secretaries, and, in their earnest and able hands, everything passed off as merrily as a wedding peal. The spacious Skating Rink, in which the entertainment was held, was well filled with the best society of Quebec and handsomely decorated. The roof and walls were hung with a profusion of green boughs and bunting and presented a very beautiful *tout ensemble*. A large number and variety of Japanese parasols suspended from the roof and the cupola in mid-air added to the enchanting appearance of the ball room. The upper end of the floor was divided off for a supper-room by curtains and placed against these was a spacious platform, which served as an auxiliary to the galleries at the end and sides of the building. Over this pavillion was the inscription in large ornamental letters "Welcome to the Delegates to the Interprovincial Congress," while at the opposite end of the Rink was the motto. "Honor to the Initiator of the Interprovincial Congress, the Hon. Mr. Mercier." At the sides of the hall were such inscriptions as "Welcome Ontario Delegates" "Welcome Nova Scotia Delegates," "Welcome Manitoba Delegates," "Welcome New Brunswick Delegates," and banners bearing the names of the Premiers of the various provinces. A very pretty stand of colors, containing a variety of flags, was placed over the front of the end gallery. The delegates and other notabilities present were received on arrival by a number of ladies, wives and daughters of members of the Committee, amongst others by Madame Routhier, Madame L. B. Caron, Miss M. Thomson and Miss A. Irvine. Messrs G. M. Dechene, M. P. P., Achille Carrier, Charles Phillips, R. Story, Errol Kennedy, Ant. Taschereau, Alexandre Taschereau and Albert Malouin acted as masters of ceremonies. Dancing was commenced at 9.30 to the inspiring strains of B Battery band and

was kept up with great zest until far into the "wee sma hours"—the scene being exceedingly brilliant and the beauty of the ladies and the elegance of the costumes greatly admired. The quadrille d'honneur was danced by the following :

\* His Worship the Mayor and Mrs. Mowat,  
 Hon. O. Mowat and Mme Mercier,  
 Hon. H. Mercier and Mrs. Fielding,  
 Hon. Mr. Fielding and Mme Shehyn,  
 Hon. Mr. Blair and Mrs McShane,  
 Hon. Mr. Norquay and Mrs. Peters,  
 Hon. Mr. Longley and Mrs. Hamilton,  
 Hon. Mr. Hamilton and Mrs. Longley,  
 Hon. Mr. Hardy and Mrs. Blair,  
 Hon. G. W. Ross and Miss Thomson,  
 Mr. Peters and Mme Casgrain,  
 Hon. Mr. McGillivray and Mrs. McLennan,  
 Hon. Mr. McLennan and Mrs. Drayner,  
 Mr. Andrew Thomson and Mme Caron,  
 Mr. P. B. Casgrain and Mme Routhier,  
 Hon. J. Shehyn and Mme Gagnon,  
 Hon. J. McShane and Mrs. Downs.

Besides any quantity of light refreshments, which were served throughout the evening, there was a magnificent supper at midnight—both viands and wines being of the most *recherché* description. It was nearly two o'clock when the company broke up, all present being delighted with the night's enjoyment, and the visiting delegates especially declaring themselves charmed with the beauty and elegance of the Quebec ladies, their vivacity, exquisite cordiality and the ease with which they conversed in both languages.

#### ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

During the sojourn of the delegates, the celebration of Arbor Day in Quebec on the 27th October afforded an occasion to interest them in the proceedings and pay them additional homage and attention. The arrangements for the ceremony around the Parliament House, which were made under the direction of Hon. J. McShane, Commissioner of Quebec Public Works, and his deputy, S. Lesage, Esq.,



were of the most satisfactory description. Shortly before 11 a. m. the party of Quebec ministers, delegates, ladies and others assembled near the main entrance of the Buildings and were joined by Sir Andrew Stuart, Chief Justice of the Superior Court and Administrator of the Province, the newly appointed Lieut.-Governor, Judge Angers, not having been yet sworn in. The Administrator was invited to preside at the ceremony, which His Honor formally opened by planting the first tree in the presence of the assembled party of notabilities, which also included Mgr. Légaré, V. G., representing His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau, His Worship the Mayor, Speaker Marchand, Rev. Mr. Fothergill, of St Peter's Anglican Church, Judge Caron, Mr. Macquet, C. E., Mr. T. Ainslie Young, Rector of the Quebec High School, the Abbé Faguy, of the Basilica, the Abbé Pagé, Director of the Minor Seminary, and Lt. Col. Taschereau. The trees were planted by the following :

Sir Andrew Stuart, Administrator of the Province.

Hon. Oliver Mowat, Prime Minister of Ontario.

Hon. Honoré Mercier, Prime Minister of Quebec.

Hon. W. S. Fielding, Prime Minister of Nova Scotia

Hon. Andrew J. Blair, Prime Minister of New Brunswick.

Hon. John Norquay, Prime Minister of Manitoba.

Hon. C. Fraser, Ontario,

Hon. A. S. Hardy, "

Hon. A. M. Ross, "

Hon. G. W. Ross, "

Alfred Evanturel, M. P. P. Ontario.

Hon. J. W. Longley, Nova Scotia,

Hon. A. McGillivray "

Hon. D. McLennan, New-Brunswick,

Hon. Chas. E. Hamilton, Manitoba.

Hon. Jas. McShane, Quebec,

Hon. Jos. Shehyn, "

Hon. C. A. E. Gagnon, "

Hon. Geo. Duhamel, "

Hon. P. Garneau, "

Hon. D. A. Ross, "

Hon. A. Turcotte, "

Hon. F. G. Marchand, Speaker.



Mgr Legaré, representing Cardinal Taschereau.

The Mayor of Quebec.

Rev. Mr. Fothergill.

The Abbe's Faguy and Pagé.

Mr. T. Ainslie Young.

Mr. S. Lesage.

Messrs Bernatchez, Pilon, Rinfret, G. M. Dechene, Tessier and Martin  
M. P. P's.

Hon. P. Mitchell, of Montreal, represented by Hon. Mr. McShane.

The Mayor of St. Hyacinthe, represented by Hon. Mr. Mercier.

Hon. Messrs Mercier and McShane also planted trees in the names of their children, the Misses Elma and Eva Mercier and Masters Henri and Paul Emile Mercier, and the Misses Maud, Lillian and Kathleen McShane.

The following ladies also took part in the ceremony by planting trees :—Mrs. Mowat, Mme Mercier, Mrs Fielding, Miss Blair, Mrs Lonley, Mrs Hamilton, Mr. Gagnon, Mrs Duhamel, represented by Mrs Dugas, Mrs McShane, Miss Marchand, Miss Pacaud, Miss Taschereau, Miss Archer, Miss Ernestine Marchand, &c.

When the event was brought to a close, the principal participants in it partook of a sumptuous luncheon as the guests of the Quebec Premier.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW LIEUT. GOVERNOR

Before the close of the Conference, the visiting delegates had the honor of making the acquaintance of the newly appointed Lieut. Governor of Quebec. Hon. A. R. Angers, who very kindly asked to be introduced to them through his Prime Minister before their departure. The introduction was accordingly arranged by Hon. Mr. Mercier and took place with a very agreeable interchange of courtesies in the Conference Hall.

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## CONCLUSION

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Nothing more of social importance remains to be noted during the stay of the distinguished visitors in Quebec. A cordial invitation was extended to them to remain over for the ceremony and festivities attending the installation of the new Lieut.-Governor; but all of them, except the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, Hon. Mr. Longley, found themselves reluctantly compelled to decline it owing to want of time, and the same remarks apply to the equally pressing invitation communicated to them, through Hon. J. McShane, from the citizens of Montreal to a banquet which it was proposed to give in that city in their honor.

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